GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3765
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
GENE THERAPY
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether `gene-therapy` has been proving a panacea for the treatment of incurable diseases like `AIDS` and Cancer production of artificial body limbs and their transplantation and production of various infection free agro-products;

(b) whether gene-related studies and the opinion of the experts besides curing the AIDS and Cancer, it could pave way for production of human brain and limbs with the help of stem cell; and

(c) if so, the details of the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) Gene-therapy is novel approach for treating diseases based on the expression of a persons genes towards a therapeutic goal. It is in its infancy, and current gene therapy is primarily experimental, with most human clinical trials only in research stages. Treating of lethal and disabling diseases like AIDS and Cancer with gene therapy is also still in its experimental stages.Stem cells have the potential to develop into various issues/organs of the body and recent development in the field are encouraging but human applications of gene therapy with the help of stem cell is still far away. The Indian Council of Medical Research and other agencies are sponsoring research projects in the institutions of the country and also encouraging the clinical usage of gene therapy unit in a variety of infectious, non-infectious diseases and transplantation of organs provided they are clinically recommended.